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AFGHANISTAN DEMOGRAPHIC HEALTH SURVEY

SEPTEMBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2016

\$6.7 MILLION

OVERVIEW

In 2015, Afghanistan launched its first-ever nationwide effort to gather comprehensive demographic and health information of its citizens. The Demographic and Health Survey results provide new base-line data on key population and health indicators, such as fertility levels, marriage rates, awareness and use of family planning methods, breastfeeding practices, nutritional status of mothers and young children, childhood and maternal health and mortality, as well as information on social indicators such as domestic violence.

The 2015 AfDHS provides data at the national and provincial levels, as well as for urban and rural areas. Data from the 2015 AfDHS demonstrates where Afghanistan stands in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Results were compiled according to rigorous international standards and, consequently, comparable with results collected in other countries. The Central Statistics Organization (CSO) and the Ministry of Public Health sent trained surveyors across the country from June 15, 2015 to February 23, 2016 to collect data from over 24,000 households, 29,000 ever-married women, and 10,700 ever-married men. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided funding for the 2015 AfDHS. ICF provided technical assistance through The Demographic Health Survey (DHS) Program, a USAID-funded project providing support and technical assistance in the implementation of demographic and health surveys in countries worldwide.

The 2015 AfDHS key findings show that two-thirds of Afghan households have access to an improved source of drinking water; more than seven in ten households have electricity, 87% have a mobile phone, and 51% have a television; less than half (46%) of Afghan children age 12-23 months have received all of the recommended basic vaccinations and only 15% of women and 49% of men are literate. Regarding women's empowerment issues, the survey also shows that women still continue struggle to access basic health care services, where 18% of women had four or more antenatal care visits and less than half (almost 50%) of births are delivered in a health facility. Furthermore, 80% of women agreed that a husband is justified to abuse them and 53% of ever-married women have experienced physical violence since age 15, and 46% experiencing violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. While, the Maternal and Child Mortality estimates are among the important focused indicators for health and development, this survey issues forth an opportunity to utilize broad range evidence-based data to inform and implement policies and programs. The AfDHS survey results will be used by the Afghan government and the international community to reduce health disparities and to ensure that evidenced-based health programs along with resources are reaching those most in need.

ACTIVITIES

- **Build Afghanistan's commitment to rigorous, evidence-based decision making:** Support efforts across the Afghan Government to strengthen its ability to conduct nationally-representative surveys. Increase analysis standards and use of hard, confirmable data to improve policies and programs.
- **Help the Afghan Government conduct Afghanistan's future scientific studies:** Develop methodology, adapt survey tools, train field staff, ensure data quality, collect and analyze data, and disseminate results.
- **Facilitate effective dissemination of findings:** Help the Afghan Government use the findings to assess the performance of health services, support the development of Afghanistan's Health National Strategic Plan with hard data, and help officials identify key health priorities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Steering Committee and technical committees established with representatives from Afghan ministries, United Nations (UN) agencies, the Afghan Government and USAID.
- Methodology developed for provincial-level data collection and disaggregation from over 25,600 households in 34 provinces; training provided to about 370 surveyors, supervisors, and monitors to conduct field research.
- All survey tools were field tested in Kabul and the surrounding districts to ensure reliability and validity prior to their implemented in 34 provinces.
- Questionnaires and training manuals translated into the two national languages: Pashto and Dari. Survey began in June 2015, and preliminary findings will be available by March 2016.
- The Key Indicator Report (KIR) was launched in May 2016. The report includes national estimates about twenty indicators.
- The Key Findings final report was launched in February 2017 by the Afghanistan Minister of Public Health and the President of CSO.

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